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low, or his heirs or representatives, on his or their demand, and without any delay, charge, or hindrance whatever.

“Signed, subject to the approbation of the Academy,  
“H. LLOYD, *President.*”

IT WAS RESOLVED,—That the deposit of the Book of Armagh be accepted by the Academy, on the conditions named; and that the thanks of the Academy be voted to the Rev. Francis Brownlow, and to Arthur R. Nugent, Esq.

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W. R. Wilde, Esq., exhibited and described the “Mias Tighearnain,” an ancient Irish shrine, from the barony of Tyrawley, County of Mayo, which had been lent to him by Annesley Knox, Esq., for that purpose.

IT WAS RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be presented to Mr. Knox, by whose permission the Mias Tighearnain has been exhibited to the Academy.

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Mr. Wilde presented a collection of Celtic antiquities, weapons, ornaments, domestic implements, sepulchral urns, and some animal remains, found in ancient tumuli, from Arthur R. Nugent, Esq., Portaferry, from whom Mr. Wilde made a communication in 1844. These interesting relics consisted of a very large stone celt, eight inches long; several flint arrow-heads, among which is one of the most beautiful, both in form and execution, which the Academy has yet received; three flint knives, two very rude and apparently in the process of formation; a small sharpening stone; and four small circular stone discs, perforated in the centre, and probably used for the distaff;—all discovered in the County of Down, a locality remarkably rich in antiquities of this description. He also presented some silver pieces, among which was a shilling of Elizabeth and one of James I.

The sepulchral urns, two in number, one very perfect, the other in fragments, but capable of being restored, were discovered along with some incinerated bones, charred wood, and



cover such traces of the distribution of these animals in the British Isles at a period so remote as the date of this tumulus points to.

Mr. Wilde recorded the discovery of a small tumulus on the western side of the great mound of New Grange, which had been opened by Lieutenant Newenham two years ago : it was about eight feet long, and consisted of a small stone passage leading into a little chamber, formed on the type of the great barrow in that vicinity. In this was discovered a vast collection of the remains of domestic animals, as well as several human bones, some perfect and others in a half-burned state. What gave particular interest to this excavation was the fact of the stones which lined the floor having been vitrified on the external face, which would lead to the conclusion that the cremation had taken place in the grave : and one of these vitrified stones Mr. Wilde presented to the Academy.

It is much to be lamented that ignorant persons, or those actuated by mere curiosity, should be allowed to open, and, as is very often the case, destroy those interesting monuments throughout the country, many of which possess an historical as well as an antiquarian and ethnological interest, and are alluded to in the ancient annals.\*

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\* The following communication has been made to the Secretary by Mr. Wilde. "Some time ago, Arthur R. Nugent, Esq., opened a large sepulchral mound in the townland of Kintagh, in the neighbourhood of Portaferry, whence he writes to me : ' There was a circle of large stones containing an area of about a rood. Between each of these flat stones there was a facing of flat ones, similar to the building of our modern fences. The outer covering was coated with white pebbles, averaging the size of a goose-egg, of which there were several cart-loads, — although it would be difficult to collect even a small quantity at present along the beach. After this was taken away, we came to a confused heap of rubbish, stones, and clay, and then some large flag stones on their end, the tumulus still preserving a cone-shape. In the centre we came to a chamber about six feet long, formed by eight very large upright stones, with a large flag-stone at the bottom, on which lay, in one heap of equal thickness, a mixture of black mould and bones.' These bones, several of which are now in the Museum of the

RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be given to Mr. Nugent.

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The Secretary announced to the meeting, that the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Shannon had forwarded a further donation of antiquities found in the bed of that river to the Museum; together with a section and plans of the small tower at Clonmacnoise.

RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be given to the Commissioners.

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Dr. Allman exhibited a remarkable form of *Saxifraga Leucanthemifolia*, presenting the retrograde metamorphosis of flowers into bulbs, which were thickly scattered over the inflorescence, occupying the position of the leafy tufts described by Robert Brown in his *Saxifraga Foliosa*.

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Rev. Samuel Butcher read a paper by the Rev. Edward Hincks, D. D., "On Persepolitan Writing."

In this paper various rectifications of the received mode of reading the first kind of Persepolitan writing were proposed; and an alphabet, or rather a combined alphabet and syllabary for the second was given, differing in some important respects from that of Westergaard.

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Academy, are all human, and consist of the ribs, vertebræ, and the ends of the long bones, together with pieces of the skull, and some joints of the fingers of a full-grown person, and also several bones of a very young child, none of which had been subject to the action of fire. But among the parcel forwarded to me by Mr. Nugent, are several fragments of incinerated human bones. Either these latter were portions of the same bodies burned, or they belonged to an individual sacrificed to the manes of the person whose grave this was; and I am inclined to think the latter is the more probable, from the circumstances in which similar remains have been discovered in other localities. There were no urns, weapons, or ornaments of any description discovered in connexion with this tumulus; but Mr. Nugent states, that in the field where it was opened, small stone chambers, or *kistvaens*, have at various times been dug up, and in one of these a long, flat, and narrow skull was some time since discovered."

W. R. W.